

Message Text

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12

ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 AID-20 FDRE-00 SR-02

ORM-01 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

NSC-05 IO-10 /076 W

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P R 010910Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4778

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 4768

FOR AMBASSADOR BROWN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF VN HK

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG

REF: STATE 100679

1. PRECISE NUMBER OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES IN HONG KONG IS IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN SINCE VIETNAMESE HAVE BEEN ENTERING HONG KONG ILLEGALLY FOR MANY YEARS. FOR EXAMPLE, DURING FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 1975, HK IMMIGRATION DISCOVERED 212 ILLEGAL VIETNAMESE IN HONG KONG, 71 OF WHOM WERE DEPORTED. ESTIMATES OF ILLEGAL VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY RANGES UPWARDS TO 50,000 BUT WE BELIEVE VAST MAJORITY ARE ETHNIC CHINESE AND HAVE SETTLED IN HONG KONG. SOME MIGHT WELL COME FORWARD, ESPECIALLY THOSE NEWLY-ARRIVED, TO SEEK ADMITTANCE TO THE US. ABOUT 12 VIETNAMESE HAVE APPROACHED INS, HONG KONG IN PAST WEEK AND ARE CURRENTLY BEING PROCESSED BY VOLAGS FOR CONDITIONAL ENTRY UNDER SECTION 203(A)(7) INA.

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2. IN ADDITION, VITENAMESE CONSULATE GENERAL HONG KONG CONSISTS OF 12 VIETNAMESE. FAMILIES PUSH TOTAL NUMBER TO APPROXIMATELY 45. CONSUL GENERAL HAS ALREADY INFORMALLY APPROACHED US CONCERNING A VISITORS VISA FOR HIS DAUGHTER TO VISIT ANOTHER DAUGHTER CURRENTLY IN NEW YORK ON STUDENT VISA. A VIETNAMESE VICE CONSUL IS SEEKING IMMIGRANT VISAS FOR HIMSELF, WIFE AND DAUGHTER. IF UNABLE TO QUALIFY , WE BELIEVE HE WILL REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM IN US.

3. CONSULAR SECTION HAS HAD 17 NIV APPLICATIONS FROM VIETNAMESE TEMPORARILY IN HONG KONG, SUCH AS CASE DESCRIBED HK 4697, IN PAST WEEK. CONSULAR SECTION HAS ALSO RECEIVED ABOUT 50 CALLS FOR INFORMATION ON IMMIGRANT VISAS FROM VIETNAMESE AND CAMBODIANS DURING PAST WEEK.

4. CONSULATE GENERAL IS CURRENTLY INTENSIVELY INVOLVED IN CASES OF 73 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED APRIL 29 ON AIR AMERICA AND APRIL 30 ON SWISS AIR (HONGKONG 4706). OF 15 ON AIR AMERICA FLIGHT, SIX AIR AMERICA EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN RELEASED TO CUSTODY OF LOCAL AIR AMERICA MANAGER , WHO IS SEEKING ONWARD DESTINATIONS FOR THEM. OTHER NINE STOPPED PLANE AS IT WAS DEPARTING SAIGON AND HOPPED ABOARD. OF THESE FOUR NOW CLAIM IMMEDIATE RELATIVE STATUS WITH FAMILY INCLUDED ON APRIL 30 SWISS AIR FLIGHT. ALL NINE ARE CURRENTLY IN HKG IMMIGRATION DETENTION.

5. STATUS OF 58 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ON BOARD SWISS AIR FLIGHT APRIL 30 IS THAT HKG, AT OUR REQUEST, HAS GRANTED AN ADDITONAL 24 HOURS UNTIL 1900 HOURS MAY 2 HONG KONG TIME FOR THEM TO REMAIN IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION.

6. I WOULD LIKE TO REITERATE THAT WHAT WE REQUIRE IMMEDIATELY IS PAROLE AUTHORITY HERE IN HONG KONG TO HANDLE SUCH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AS ENTER HONG KONG TO BE PROCESSED EXPEDITIOUSLY AND WITHOUT ADVERSE PRESS PUBLICITY. WE HAVE EXPERIENCED INS AND CONSULAR OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO THIS POST, WHO WOULD BE ALBE TO UTILIZE SUCH AUTHORITY WITH COMPETENCE AND PROVIDE WHATEVER NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS THE DEPARTMENT AND INS MIGHT WISH TO IMPOSE. ATTEMPTING TO HANDLE THESE PROBLEMS IN CONSULATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT
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HAS PROVED UNWIELDLY, TIME-COMSUMING, AND INADEQUATE TO MEET THE PRESSING NEEDS OF THE REFUGEES' SITUATION AND THE HKG'S CLEAR INTENTION NOT TO PERMIT ANY VIETNAMESE REFUGEES REMAIN IN HONG KONG.
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